

Guard and Reserve, ESGR, and numerous State and local officials.

I also want to recognize the hundreds of volunteers who have contributed their time, energy and money to Operation Troop Support. The support the North Shore community has given the organization has been inspiring. Volunteers have spent countless hours boxing the care packages, and they have donated thousands of dollars to ship the packages to ensure that each soldier, marine, airman and sailor receives something during the holiday season.

I had the opportunity to meet with many of the Operation Troop Support volunteers while attending a St. Patrick's Day luncheon hosted by the organization last year. During the luncheon, I spoke with a soldier, Thomas Lanzoni, who had recently returned from Iraq. Inspired by the volunteers of Operation Troop Support, Sergeant Lanzoni walked across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to raise money and awareness for the Moodys's organization.

Dick and Christine Moody understand the special burden placed on military families. Dick spent 23 years in the Air Force and retired as a lieutenant colonel. Additionally, the Moodys have a son and a daughter who have served abroad in the Air Force. The military has long been a part of their life. Consequently, Operation Troop Support not only supports the troops in the field but also hosts family support group meetings for the loved ones of servicemembers deployed or about to be deployed overseas.

I salute the Moodys and Operation Troop Support for their service and dedication to our country. Their gestures of gratitude have reached thousands of servicemembers, reminding each of them that we support them and their families while they are deployed and when they return.●

2009 NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED RHODE ISLAND TEACHERS

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, I commend the announcement yesterday that 44 Rhode Island teachers and nearly 9,000 teachers nationwide achieved National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification this year.

The single most effective step we can take to raise student achievement and turn around struggling schools is to ensure that we improve the quality of our teachers. For years I have worked to improve what the Federal Government does to help train and develop teachers. Indeed, I have worked with National Board on nearly every piece of teacher quality legislation I have introduced in the Senate. The National Board has been instrumental in identifying effective teaching practices and infusing those practices throughout our Nations schools. Their certification process is rigorous and includes multiple components that regularly assess and improve a teacher's ability to improve

student learning. Since 1994, 82,000 teachers have been National Board certified, including 383 Rhode Island teachers.

Last week, the National Board announced an expansion of their certification process to include principals and other school leaders, recognizing the research that effective leadership is second only to classroom instruction among factors that influence student outcomes. I was pleased that this important expansion was made possible through Federal funding provided through the fiscal year 2009 Labor, Health, and Education appropriations bill.

I congratulate the Rhode Island teachers and teachers nationwide on their significant accomplishment and dedication to their professional development, and I look forward to continuing to work with the National Board to ensure that our children have the most effective teachers, principals, and school leaders.

I ask that the names of the Rhode Island teachers who achieved National Board certification this year be included in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

2009 RHODE ISLAND NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHERS

Rhonda Asprinio, Michelle Beaulieu, Karen Bessette, Catherine Boutin, Dawn Brooder, Alison Burke, Jaclyn Cambio, David Clegg, Leila Connolly, Suzanne Costa, Lilly Coustan, Cheryl Degnan, Stephanie Desmarais, Amy Devault, Jonathan Dune, Kerri Gendice, Michael Gendice, Andrea Hainey-Turcotte, Carolyn Higgins, Michaela Holmes, James Hovey, and David Kearsley.

Denise Ledoux, Jeanne Maggialomo, Treva McElroy, Karen Mchenry, Maryelizabeth Melillo, Bonnie Morency-Lima, Lisa Narcisi, Kerry Perschau, Margaret Pouliot, Mary Roberts, Elizabeth Ruest, Lynn Rzemien-Plotkin, Marilyn Salisbury, Elyse Scherza, Denise Sherman, Nicole Tetreault, Jennifer Theroux, Julee Thomas, Christa Thompson, Jennifer Walker, Lynn Warila, and Amy Weigand.●

TRIBUTE TO ANDREW SAMWICK

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, today I congratulate Professor Andrew Samwick for being recognized for his dedication to and his excellence in teaching. Professor Samwick is the winner of the 2009 New Hampshire Professor of the Year Award, one of the most prestigious awards for undergraduate teaching. Honorees are recognized for their influence in the lives and careers of their students.

Mr. Samwick has taught at Dartmouth College since 1994 and is a professor of economics and the director of the Nelson A. Rockefeller Center for Public Policy and Social Sciences. He is a well-known expert on the economics of retirement and social security reform, and has testified several times before Congress and has served as chief economist on the staff of the President's Council of Economic Advisors. He is also a research associate at the

National Bureau of Economic Research where he cochairs the Social Security Working Group.

Professor Samwick graduated summa cum laude from Harvard College and received a Ph.D. in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has won numerous prizes, grants, and fellowships for his work. His articles frequently appear in prestigious economics and finance journals and he often provides commentary and opinion for national public radio and national newspapers.

The U.S. Professors of the Year program acknowledges the most exceptional undergraduate instructors in the country—those who stand out in their teaching and positive influence on the lives and careers of their students. It is important that we recognize the critical work and contribution that our talented professors make in educating the next generation of young people. I am extremely proud that Professor Samwick has been honored by this prestigious distinction.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 10:03 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 1472. An act to establish a section within the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice to enforce human rights laws, to make technical and conforming amendments to criminal and immigration laws pertaining to human rights violations, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

At 10:38 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1147. An act to implement the recommendations of the Federal Communications Commission report to the Congress regarding low-power FM service.

H.R. 3714. An act to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to include in the Annual